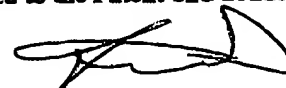


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (001)(703) 308-0758) on the date shown below.

Milan,
January 20, 2003



Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:)
Applicant: COCCIA, Stefano)
Ser. No.: 09/910,809)Group Art Unit: 3765
Filed: July 24, 2001)Examiner: HOEY, ALISSA L
For: Protective Element Particularly for)
Cycling Shorts)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231 USA

Sir,

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant herewith encloses copies of the prior art references which have been cited in the European Search Report issued for the counterpart European Patent Application which contains subject matter equivalent to that of the present application. The references submitted herewith for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

A copy of the European Search Report (in English) is herewith provided which indicates the degree of relevancy found by the European Patent Office of each reference, so as to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), according to the Commissioner's Comment 68, 1135 Off. gaz. Pat. Office 13,20 (Feb. 4, 1992), and as set forth in MPEP 609 part A(3).

A copy of the Annex to the European Search Report is also enclosed, which indicates the patent family members of the patent documents cited in the Search Report.

Respectfully submitted,



Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)
Agent for the Applicant

Date: January 20, 2003
Address: Via Meravigli 16, 20123 MILAN-ITALY
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(02)869-2442
Telefax: (from USA)(011)(39)(02)863-860

Encl.: -Form PTO-1449.
-Copy of European Search Report.
-Cited references.